

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02674 141139Z

13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00

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P 141051Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1067

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2674

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, IS

SUBJECT: TRANSITIONAL QUARTER ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

REF: TEL AVIV 2651

1. GOI PRESS OFFICE ISSUED BULLETIN ON APRIL 13 REPORTING AMOS ERAN'S REMARKS MADE ON APRIL 12 REPEAT APRIL 12 REGARDING TRANSITIONAL QUARTER ASSISTANCE. SINCE LANGUAGE DIFFERS SLIGHTLY FROM OUR TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS FROM YESTERDAY'S HEBREW PRESS, WE ARE REPORTING FULL TEXT OF BULLETIN AS FOLLOWS.

2. "ERAN: FORGOING 'QUARTERLY' AID WOULD BE A MISTAKE.

A. FOR ISRAEL TO GIVE UP THE AID FOR THE FIFTH QUARTER WOULD BE MISTAKE, EXCEEDING THE MERE BOUNDS OF AID IN GENERAL. THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY MR. AMOS ERAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

B. THE AID FOR THE FIFTH QUARTER, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL STRESSED, WAS ESSENTIAL IN ITSELF, THE LARGER PART OF IT BEING EARMARKED FOR STRENGTHENING THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES. IN THE COURSE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, MR. ERAN NOTED, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAD

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02674 141139Z

TOLD MR. RABIN THAT IF CONGRESS INITIAIATED LEGISLATIVE

PROCEDURES ON THE SUBJECT--THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED. DR. KISSINGER HAD ALSO SAID THIS TO SENATOR HUMPHREY, RESULTING IN INITIATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE WHICH LED TO A CLEAR-CUT DECISION ON THE ISSUE.

C. 'ON 8 MARCH,' MR. ERAN WENT ON TO SAY, 'ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS ROBERT MCCLOSKEY EVEN ADDRESSED A LETTER TO THIS EFFECT TO SENATOR INOUE, CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE. ON 15 MARCH, PRESIDENT FORD REITERATED THIS POSITION AT THIS MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE PRESIDENT CHANGED HIS STAND.

D. 'IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ACTUALLY FOUND IT NECESSARY ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO VETO CONGRESS ACTION ON VARIOUS SOCIAL ISSUES AFFECTING MOST U.S. CITIZENS. ALL THE SAME, A UNILATERAL ISRAELI RELINQUISHMENT (OF THE AID) WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE PRESENTATION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF OUR ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS, AND WOULD PLACE OUR MANY FRIENDS IN CONGRESS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. A REASONABLE COMPROMISE, TO BE ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT WITHOUT ISRAELI INTERVENTION, OUGHT THEREFORE TO BE SOUGHT.'" TOON

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## Message Attributes

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